



Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project Frequently Asked Questions

May 2016

Project-Related Questions

What is the Lower Coal Creek Flood Reduction Project?

The City of Bellevue (Bellevue) is seeking to reduce the risk of flooding in the Newport Shores neighborhood. An engineering study evaluated existing conditions, and this information, along with initial public input, was used to identify potential projects that could be implemented in the neighborhood to reduce flooding.

Bellevue is moving forward with two efforts: one to address Lower Coal Creek flooding, and the other to address localized stormwater flooding. Bellevue has started the design and permitting phase to address Lower Coal Creek flooding. It has also started the concept design development to resolve localized stormwater flooding. Construction for both efforts is scheduled to take place between 2017 (or 2018) and 2019.

Why did Bellevue choose to focus on the Newport Shores neighborhood?

Flooding is a concern in Newport Shores. Over the last two decades, Bellevue has received and responded to numerous flooding complaints associated with a range of causes, including backup of storm drains, culvert blockages, and channel overflows during large storms. Watershed stabilization and sediment capture projects have reduced flood frequency, but this is an opportunity to do more.

In 2007, the Metropolitan King County Council created the King County Flood Control District (the District) to address chronic flooding problems throughout the County. The District collects an excise tax on all parcels in King County, including Bellevue, for flood control planning and projects.

When the District was forming, Bellevue requested that the District prioritize a flood risk reduction project for Lower Coal Creek within the Newport Shores neighborhood. Bellevue recommended Newport Shores over other areas in Bellevue with flooding because it met the District's project selection criteria.

Where is the project located?

The project is located in Newport Shores, which is where Coal Creek flows into Lake Washington.

Figure 1 shows the project area.

What will happen if Bellevue doesn't address the flooding?

If this issue is not addressed, residents will continue to see occasional flooding on their properties and roadways. Bellevue's goal is to construct projects that will help reduce flooding throughout the neighborhood.

What is the solution?

To reduce flooding from the creek, Bellevue is planning on constructing new bridges at the 5 locations in the neighborhood where Lower Coal Creek crosses the following streets: Cascade, Glacier, Newport, Upper Skagit and Lower Skagit



Figure 1. Project Area

Keys. These new bridges will be sized to convey the expected flows from the 100-year storm, reduce the chances of debris getting clogged in the inlets, and be designed to meet new fish passage design guidelines.

To address localized street flooding, Bellevue is planning to reroute some of the neighborhood roadway storm pipes that currently discharge into the creek, and instead redesign them to directly discharge into Lake Washington at 2-3 new locations. These new stormwater outfalls will help reduce street flooding. Stormwater will be treated to remove sediment from the roadway before discharging into Lake Washington.

How will any solutions proposed relate to the sediment ponds upstream?

This study and resulting project are independent of the sediment ponds upstream. The upstream sediment ponds were designed to trap sediments before entering the Newport Shores neighborhood. While not part of this project, Bellevue will continue to regularly remove sediment from the upstream ponds.

Through this project, will Bellevue restore stream banks to combat erosion?

Replacing the existing culverts will require some stream bank restoration work adjacent to the new bridges. Otherwise, there are no plans to stabilize stream banks on private property in-between the bridges as part of this project.

What is the project schedule?

Bellevue is currently starting the final design and permit acquisition phase. The anticipated project schedule is:

- 2015-2017: Final design and permit acquisition
- 2017 (or 2018) -2019: Construction of new bridges and stormwater outfalls

How is this project being funded?

The project is funded through the King County Flood Control District and implemented by the City of Bellevue.

Potential Impacts to the Neighborhood and Residents

How will I be affected?

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017 or 2018. Bellevue will have a clearer idea of project sequencing after further design efforts. Bellevue will continue reaching out to the public to keep the community informed on construction impacts.

I don't have any flooding on my property. How will this help me?

Storm drain backups and street flooding often coincide with and are caused by creek flooding. New stormwater outfalls, in particular, will reduce street flooding and improve overall pedestrian, car, and emergency vehicle access during large storms.

Public Process

How has the public been consulted?

Bellevue hosted a booth at Bellevue's Spring Forward Expo in April 2013 and had meetings with the Newport Shores Homeowners Association in October 2013 and March 2014. Bellevue hosted a Public Forum on May 12, 2014 at the Newport Shores Yacht Club to hear the public's thoughts on potential alternatives. On May 11, 2016 Bellevue hosted a public open house at the Newport Yacht Club to give residents the opportunity to learn about and comment on the infrastructure projects in the Newport Shores neighborhood. In addition, Bellevue has been updating the project website (www.bellevuewa.gov/lower-coal-creek-flood-reduction.htm) and sending updates to the Newport Yacht Club's newsletter.

How can I be involved?

Additional public outreach is being planned for future stages of the project, and will include website updates, as well as potential community forums and field trips. Please visit the [project's website](#) for updates.

Bellevue wants to hear from you regarding your thoughts and concerns on this effort. You can submit comments to Bruce Jensen at 425-452-7240 or via email at bjensen@bellevuewa.gov. You can also learn more on the project's website at: www.bellevuewa.gov/lower-coal-creek-flood-reduction.htm.

Other Questions

Though not a part of the Lower Coal Creek Flood Reduction project, we understand that the following topics are important to residents living in the study area:

How should residents dispose of sandbags after flood events?

Bellevue delivers sandbags to residents in emergency situations. When the emergency has dissipated, cut open the sandbags, dump out and spread the sand around. Avoid putting the sand directly into the stream.

What resources are available to residents to help with stream bank stabilization?

Bellevue's Critical Areas webpage (www.bellevuewa.gov/critical-areas.htm) contains valuable information about work in critical areas, such as along stream banks. This webpage has links to Bellevue's Land Use Code, and the [Critical Area Ordinance](#). It also includes links to informational "handouts" about Critical Areas, [Bellevue's Critical Area Handbook](#), and even [Critical Areas Training Videos](#).

Whom can residents contact with questions or concerns related to vegetation management, such as the steps to remove trees to prevent debris from entering the creek?

Contact the Land Use Desk at 425-452-4188. More information is available at: www.bellevuewa.gov/critical-areas.htm.